

TRASH BASHERS WANTED!

Free lunch
& t-shirts!

to BATTLE the LITTER WAR
at

CAPE LaCROIX CREEK on April 19, 2008
or HUBBLE CREEK on April 26, 2008

8-12 noon

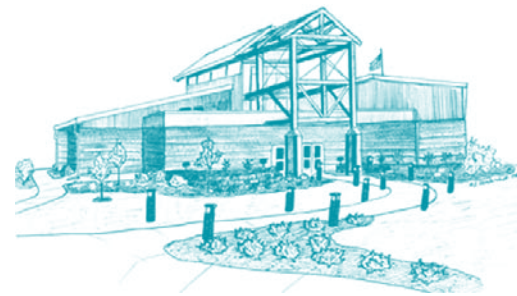
Call (573)290-5218 for more information or to register.

No MORE
Trash!

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<http://www.missouriconservation.org>

Tupelo Times
Conservation Nature Center
2289 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Phone: 573-290-5218
Fax: 573-290-5566



Tupelo Times

APRIL & MAY 2008 VOL. 4, NO. 2

The Newsletter of the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center**

ENJOY THE VIEW

I feel very fortunate to live in southeast Missouri, such a beautiful and unique part of the state. The landscape and the river provide many opportunities to enjoy all sorts of nature at its best, and yes, even its worst. I enjoy the views of our natural surroundings in all seasons—each one is my favorite. I guess that's why I get so upset when I see trash littered along our area's highways and byways. There is nothing more distracting when I am trying to "soak up" spring wildflowers, fall foliage or a hard frost than to see someone's refuse scattered here and there among the very pieces of nature I am trying to enjoy.

Now, I don't consider myself to be old, so I am probably dating myself here, but I remember a very poignant commercial in my adolescent years that expressed the very feeling I get when I see trash along our roadsides. It was that of a Native American standing in the foreground of a littered countryside with trash blowing in the wind as he stood there with his arms crossed and a single tear falling down his cheek as he surveyed his blemished surroundings. Although I was young, it really struck a chord with me. That Native American, I believe, was disheartened by the lack of respect some people have for Mother Earth and all she gives us.

I can't think of anyone I know or have met that would want to live in a home or have a yard where refuse is loosely discarded at will and not contained or disposed of properly. It ruins the appearance of one's décor and looks unkept. The irony of it all is that we live in a world and time where appearances matter. Many people go to great lengths to have the perfect house, the perfect yard, the perfect car or the perfect body. Why then, would anyone think differently for our public lands (highways, parks or trails) to be kept just as neat and attractive? It makes a community look bad and those living there look worse.

I say this because our area is starting to slip again into a rut of trash and debris collecting alongside our roads, in our parks and along our trails. In recent years our city and community leaders worked to get the message across that "trash invites more trash" and folks listened. There was an overwhelming response by individuals, youth groups and civic organizations to pick up the trash and beautify our natural areas. It was wonderful to see people take pride and ownership of our public lands to protect the quality of life and the view itself. We all need to get involved again. I travel I-55 everyday and it's looking like we need to clean things up before it gets any worse. And it's not just public lands. My family and I were recently at an area store where the employee collecting carts was throwing the leftover contents of the carts in the parking lot—where it was blowing all over the adjacent highway and countryside.

We all need to get that sense of compassion for the earth as the Native American displayed in the commercial of years past. In fact, until we instill that feeling in everyone—especially our youth—this problem is never going to go away. We need that sense of respect, responsibility and pride for nature or we will someday have nothing to look at but our own waste. Let's work together and strike a chord just as that commercial of my youth did. There are 'Bashin' Trash' events scheduled for April 19 and April 26 for Cape Girardeau and Jackson areas. Give us a call to register for these stewardship opportunities and help make a difference. And when you're done, take the time to enjoy the view. There's no better reward.

Lisa Seyer, Office Supervisor

Migrate with the Birds!

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 10, 2008 9am-4pm

*Activities *Bird banding *Door Prizes
*Demonstrations *Bird Walks



Wild Bird Sanctuary will fly live birds overhead at 11 & 2
Live bird banding demonstrations using mist nets will begin at 7am



Serving nature and you

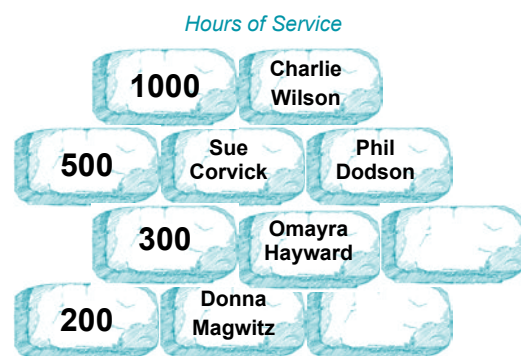
A Good Balance

Both the nature center and its volunteers benefit from training. The volunteer program offers initial training sessions for new volunteers – a combined total of 21 hours – before they can officially begin. In addition, there are on-site sessions and off-site training opportunities to further develop the knowledge base and skills of these individuals. The information covered is necessary for volunteers to represent the Conservation Department and to provide the best customer service. These opportunities also promote lifelong learning for the volunteers. Whether learning archery skills, how to identify mammal tracks, learning about the history of the conservation movement or how to handle program animals, these volunteers take pleasure in learning about conservation topics and mastering conservation skills. The volunteer program provides fulfilling conservation opportunities that they may not otherwise have. Fortunately for our visitors and program attendees, these training opportunities culminate in knowledgeable, experienced and enthusiastic volunteers. The newest of these recently completed their training program and are anxious to help make the most of your next conservation experience.



Carolyn Huter and Susan Elrod attend a training session.

Volunteer Milestones



Nature on Your Plate

Conservation Heritage license plates let you become a driving force for conservation in Missouri. Did you know you can pay for them at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center?

For a \$25 annual donation to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Nature Center staff will give you a "Conservation Heritage License Plate Emblem Use Authorization Form" that allows you to order the Conservation Heritage plate of your choice from the Missouri Department of Motor Vehicles (*additional DMV fees required*).

You may order the Conservation Heritage plates any time, regardless of your current license plate expiration date.

The Foundation will direct your donation to Missouri's nature centers, outdoor classrooms, Stream Teams, wildlife habitat and other conservation programs. Questions? Contact the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation at **1-800-227-1488** or visit the Foundation's Web site at www.mochf.org.



Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm and is closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape



Educators' Niche

Becoming a Learning Outdoors School

Connect students with nature close to home and learn how to incorporate outdoor activities within your existing curriculum to enhance student performance on Grade Level Expectations. Workshop hours are from 4-8pm on March 31 and April 1. *Participants planning to earn college credit will meet on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 8am-4pm. Graduate credit is through Southeast Missouri State University.

Wetland Odyssey

Join us on a journey through the magnificent ecosystem of Duck Creek and learn about wetlands, their history and their future. This is a two hour credit workshop through Southeast Missouri State University. The workshop will be held at Duck Creek Conservation Area, near Puxico. Workshop sessions will begin at 8am each day and include extended hours in the evenings on May 28 & 29 and end by 4pm on May 30. [For more information, please contact Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5218.](#)

The Nature Shop

The **Nature Shop** features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

20% Off

Special monthly discounts ...
(Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply)

APRIL

Trees of Missouri Field Guide

Based on Don Kurz's original *Trees of Missouri*, this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood or natural area.

- 174 species described
- Range map for each species
- Full-color illustrations
- Easy-to-understand descriptions

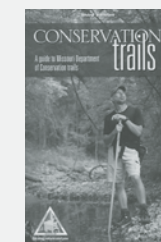


Discounted price:
\$6.00 plus tax

MAY

Conservation Trails Guide

This guide highlights trails on conservation areas throughout the state. This third edition features improved maps and facility information. We've featured 98 trails on 40 of our areas. They range in length from .1 mile to 20 miles and go from level, paved paths to difficult trails.



Discounted price:
\$4.00 plus tax



Bird Happenings

Saturday April 19, 2008
9am to 3pm

Grand Opening



Join the Twin Pines Conservation Education Center staff for some food and fun as they celebrate the center's grand opening. Fishing, archery, herb walks and lots of demonstrations. And what Ozarks' celebration would be complete without a fish fry? The newly opened, 456-acre area and interpretive center in Winona gives visitors a glimpse into the region's natural and cultural history. Emphasizing Missouri's forest heritage, displays include vintage logging equipment, a log cabin and an early 20th century schoolhouse. For more information phone Twin Pines at 573-325-1381.

Gourds for the Birds

Tuesday, April 8, 6:30-7:30pm

House wrens are migrating back and looking for a place to nest. Bring a child and make a nesting place from a hollow gourd. All materials provided. Please only 1 child per adult.
[Registration required.](#)

Purple Martin Nest Cam

Saturday, May 17, 10am-2pm

Stop by for a look inside. Nest cams will be set up to view Purple martins as they incubate eggs.



April Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **April 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

1 Landowner Workshop Nuisance Wildlife Tuesday, 7-9pm

Are squirrels chewing on your cedar siding or foxes killing your chickens or deer eating your plants?

These are a few of the wildlife conflict problems that are encountered by people in rural and urban areas. Join Private Land Conservationist Tim Kavan to learn some of the best prevention methods and workable solutions to deal with human and wildlife conflicts. **Ages 12 and up.** Registration required.

Early registration begins March 15



6 Naturalist's Notebook Archery Sunday, 1-3pm

Regardless if you are an expert archer or have never touched a bow, this program will have something for you! Discover techniques to improve your shooting, practice on our 3-D targets or learn the basics of an extremely popular, ever growing sport. All archery equipment will be provided and instructors will be on hand to assist. **Ages 8 and up.** Youth groups welcome. No registration required.



6 Conservation Trails Perry County Community Lake Sunday, 12-5pm

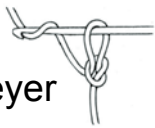
This four-mile loop features a wide grassy trail with views of the lake. The surrounding fields and forest protect the watershed and provide cover for wildlife such as shorebirds, ducks and geese, deer and small mammals. Meet at the nature center to carpool. Trail rated as easy. **Ages 8 and up.** Registration required.

Early registration begins March 15



6 Meet the Artists Laura Law and Lisa Seyer Sunday, 1-3pm

Both artists learned to crochet at a very young age. Their passion for this craft and for nature inspired them to crochet a unique collection of afghans featuring flowers and animals on display this month. Visit with Laura and Lisa as they spend the afternoon demonstrating their talents using various mediums as they crochet and share projects. Maybe you too will get "hooked" on this popular form of needlework. **All ages.** Youth groups welcome. No registration required.



Temporary Display

Be sure to visit the nature center's gallery in April to see "Nature in Needlework" by Laura Law and Lisa Seyer. This unique collection of afghans features animals and flowers crocheted into the design of each colorful piece.

10 Mushroom Hunting 101 Thursday, 7-8pm

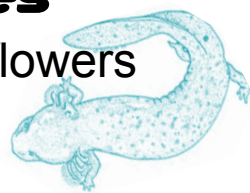
Spring is here and conditions are right for hunting the elusive morel mushroom. Join Joe Walsh from the Missouri Mycological Society to get involved in the age old tradition of mushroom hunting. During this session you will find out which mushrooms can be found in the spring, get tips on what you will need to start looking for them, find out what conditions need to be right for these fungi to grow and get some pointers on how to prepare the edible ones for a tasty spring treat. **Ages 12 and up.** Registration required.

Mudpuppies

Wild About Wildflowers

**Saturday, April 12
9am, 11am or 1pm
Tuesday, April 15
9am or 11am**

Spring is here! The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, so let's go exploring outside! Mudpuppies will hit the trails to look for spring wildflowers. We'll even be able to take a little piece of spring home with us! **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. Registration required.



12 Birds of Prey Saturday 10am & 2pm

Rusty Scarborough has over 20 years of experience in his field and will bring live raptors from Delta Rivers Nature Center in Arkansas for his presentation. **All ages.** Youth and adult groups welcome. Registration required.

13 Discovery Station Living Green Sunday, 1-4pm

What's all this we hear about "living green?" Come find out how you can make your life "green" as you discover how to become more environmentally friendly. You can make a craft from recycled materials and take a tour of the nature center to explore the ways that our building contributes to a better environment. **All ages.** Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration is required.

snappers Nature in the Sky Tuesday, April 15 7-8:30pm

There are 88 constellations in our night sky and nearly half are related to nature. "Nature in the Sky" will teach you how to identify some key nature constellations, then provide you the chance to peer through a telescope. We will be joined by special guest speakers Dr. Michael Cobb, SEMO astronomy professor and Jackie Wortman of the NASA Center. The fascination of the nighttime sky brings you outdoors every time. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. Registration required.



Celebrate Earth Day!
April 22, 2008

RACERS

Bashin' Trash Saturday, April 19/26 8am-12noon

(See description below.)

Racers programs are designed for teens ages 12-17. Registration required.



19 Bashin' Trash Saturday, April 19, 8-12noon Saturday, April 26, 8-12noon

You and your organization are invited to bash trash in April as part of a collaboration between the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center and our local Parks and Recreation Departments. You can come Saturday, April 19, from 8 am – noon at the Osage Center to clean Cape LaCroix Creek between Route W and Shawnee Sports Complex and/or Saturday, April 26, from 8 am – noon at the Jackson City Park to clean up Hubble Creek. We'll divide the creeks into sections and conquer the trash, then provide you with lunch and Park Day t-shirts. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Wear your water shoes and your bashin' trash clothes. **All ages.** Youth groups welcome. Registration required.

23 Warbler Walk Wednesday, 6:45-7:45am

Get up early with the birds! Migratory songbirds are returning from the tropics and passing through here. We'll walk the nature center's White Oak Trace in search of warblers and other songbirds. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Beginners and experts alike. **Ages 12 and up.** No registration required.

Tadpoles

Sensing Spring Saturday, April 26 10-11am

See the bright green trees. Feel the fresh air blowing through your hair. Smell the new flowers. Hear a songbird singing sweetly. Get a taste of nature in all its glory. Bring your favorite tadpole and discover the wonders that await in this new season of life! **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult. Registration required.



27 "Adults Only" Crappie Fishing Sunday, 12-4pm

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than fishing for crappie? Find out how to rig your pole, learn what is the best bait to use, learn what habitat conditions are good for crappie and visit one of the many fishing areas in southeast Missouri. This session is designed for people that are new to fishing. You may bring you own fishing equipment or borrow some of ours. Fishing licenses are required and should be purchased in advance at the nature center. **Ages 18 and up.** Registration required.

Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center
front desk to find out
what videos will be
shown this month.





May Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **May 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

3 Discovery Station Something's Fishy **Saturday, 1-4pm**

Bring the family and learn about fish and fishing in southeast Missouri. Get up close and personal with our big river fish, enjoy fishing-related activities, fix up a fishy craft, and other fun fish stuff.

All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration is required.

4 Naturalist's Notebook Native Plant Walk **Sunday, 2-3pm**

Join a naturalist for a stroll through the gardens of the nature center. Learn to identify some of the native plants that you'll enjoy and find out what might work in your garden. **Ages 8 and up. Youth groups welcome. No registration required.**

4 Meet the Artist Mike Bibby **Sunday, 2-4pm**

Cape Girardeau wildlife artist, Mike Bibby, will be here to talk with visitors about the inspirations behind his oil and pastel paintings in his exhibit, "Missouri: Where Wildlife and Beauty Abound".

All ages. No registration required.

6 Warbler Walk **Tuesday, 6:45-7:45am**

Get up early with the birds! Migratory songbirds are returning from the tropics and passing through here. We'll walk the nature center's White Oak Trace in search of warblers and other songbirds. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Beginners and experts alike. **Ages 12 and up. No registration required.**

6 Landowner Workshop Herbicide Management for Wildlife **Tuesday, 7-9pm**

Join Private Land Conservationist Larry Heggemann to learn proper management techniques for creating the best habitat for wildlife survival. Find out which herbicides are the best to use, what techniques provide desirable results and learn what conditions should be in place for herbicide success. **Ages 12 and up. Registration required.**

Early registration begins April 15

10 Migratory Bird Day Tundra to Tropics **Saturday, 9am-4pm**

Millions of birds are migrating north this time of year. Many summer in the tundra, winter in the tropics and have a challenging journey along the way. International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated around the globe and we are joining in with activities, games, birding walks, door prizes and tips to help these birds. **Live bird banding demonstrations begin at 7am.** The World Bird Sanctuary will show live birds of prey and fly them over your heads at 11am and 2pm.

All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.

11 Conservation Trails Mill Stream Gardens & Silver Mines **Sunday, 12-5pm**

The stretch of the St. Francis River at Millstream is the only whitewater in the state and kayakers gather to run the river in spring. The shut-ins can be viewed from the Cat's Paw platform. A longer river trail will take hikers to more scenic overlooks, as well as a quiet pool in U. S. Forest Service woodlands. Meet at the nature center to carpool. Disabled persons are welcome to meet at the Tiemann Shut-ins accessible trail. River trail rated as moderate.

Ages 8 and up. Registration required.

snappers A Snake's Tale **Tuesday, May 13 6:30-8pm**

Snake tales often exceed the truth. Humans' fear of snakes goes well beyond instinct and often end in the death of these creatures. Many snake myths negatively show these cautious animals as scary and dangerous. In reality, these members of the reptile family have many ecological benefits and rarely cause humans harm. With the temperature rising and snakes creeping out of their winter dens, now is a good time to learn to recognize and understand the snakes of Missouri. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11.

Registration required.

15 Linens and Leaves **Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm**

Natural materials are a great resource for making many craft projects. Leaf print napkins can be an easy project. Learn about the many shapes and sizes of leaves as you settle into creating your own leaf print masterpieces. **Please bring four light colored cotton blend table napkins that have been pre-washed.** All other craft materials will be provided. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

Mudpuppies

Bird Bonanza **Saturday, May 17 9am, 11am or 1pm Tuesday, May 20 9am or 11am**

Fly on in for a Bird Bonanza! With carnival-like games and fun crafts, Mudpuppies will gain a new understanding of our feathered friends. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. **Registration required.**

17 "Adults Only" Birding for Songbirds **Saturday, 8-11am**

Songbirds are back for the summer. Warblers, vireos, tanagers – oh my! Some of these migratory songbirds will nest here, others are passing through on their way north. We'll visit some local bird hot spots to find these beauties of color and song. Field guides and binoculars provided. Trails rated as moderate. All levels of birding experience welcome. **Ages 18 & up. Registration required.**



Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center front desk to find out what videos will be shown this month.

22 Conservation Café **Thursday, 6:30-8pm**

Louis Houck is considered the "Father of Southeast Missouri" and nobody knows his life and story better than Joel Rhodes, Associate Professor of History at Southeast Missouri State University. Houck stretched 500 miles of railroad through the draining "swampeast" that changed this corner of the state and boosted it's economy. During this interview with Rhodes, enjoy refreshments and the warm atmosphere of the Conservation Café as you learn more about Joel Rhodes and his latest book, *A Missouri Railroad Pioneer: the Life of Louis Houck*. **Ages 12 and up. Registration required.**

RACERS

Right On Target **Tuesday, May 27 6-8pm**

These days, we take grocery stores for granted and don't think how easily we find food. It hasn't always been that way. Hunting for food was vital for prehistoric people and Native Americans. We'll take a look at life between 2,000 and 9,000 years ago to explore outdoor skill history. You'll have the opportunity to try your hand at both a spear thrower and a bow and arrow to find out if you would have been right on target for your next meal or left hungry. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17. **Registration required.**

31 Rolling on the River **Saturday, 8am-5pm**

Ladies, this is your opportunity to experience girl power in the outdoors as a participant in our first mother/daughter canoe trip on the St. Francis River. Enthusiasm to learn and the physical ability to paddle a canoe are all you'll need. We'll provide the equipment, basic canoe instruction and transportation. No prior experience is required for this four-mile canoe trip from Sam A. Baker State Park. **Ages 12 and up. Registration required.**

Tadpoles

Clues on Critters **Saturday, May 31 10-11am**

What is that? Who lives there? What does it eat? Find out the answers to these questions with your favorite tadpole. Discover the critters that live in your own backyard and all around us. **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult. **Registration required.**

Temporary Display

Visit the nature center's gallery in May to view "Missouri: Where Wildlife and Beauty Abound," a collection of oil and pastel paintings by wildlife artist, Mike Bibby.